

## MEXICO AND GUATEMALA

**A Detailed Statement of the Dispute by the  
Mexican Minister.**

**The Contentions of the Two Countries  
as to the Boundary Line—The  
Pending Question.**

Senor Romero, the Mexican minister, has

given out the following detailed statement concerning the Guatemalan-Mexican dispute:

"By the stipulation of the preliminary agreement signed in New York on August 12, 1882, about actual possession, Guatemala recognized that Chiapas and Soconusco belonged legitimately to Mexico, and agreed that a boundary line between the two countries should be fixed on a final boundary treaty to be signed at the City of Mexico, and that the boundary between Chiapas and Soconusco on the side of Mexico and of Guatemala's side on the

other, should be the line de facto existing in both countries, and recognized by the inhabitants of both countries, that is, the actual possession of the country occupying portions of the territory belonging to the other during the time between the treaty, so as to be in actual possession of that territory when the treaty was signed, and stipulated in the preliminary "understanding" that the actual possession of the territory should be the line was agreed upon. But Great Britain contended that such stipulation means that each country shall remain in possession of the territory which she possessed before the treaty.

In the other country, and this construction is against the expressed provision of article 8 of the boundary treaty, which expressly requires that each country should enter its possession of territory acquired by it within six months from the first meeting of the boundary commission, which meeting took place on November 1, 1883. In accordance with the Mexican government understanding of this stipulation, Mexico transacted with Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Cuzco, Ayacucho, Puno, Arequipa, Lima, Iquitos, several other towns, factories, haciendas, etc., which were within her territorial limits before the line agreed upon in the treaty, and those which passed to Guatemala under the same conditions as those which had been ceded to and Guatemala received them, and is now

**Only the Beginning of Negotiations.**  
 "Besides these considerations, the preliminary agreement was only the beginning of the negotiations which culminated in the boundary treaty of September 27, 1882; that is, both parties agreed by the preliminary to accept some principles to be embodied and carried out in the final treaty. The preliminaries were superseded by the final treaty, and are therefore binding only in such stipulations as are embodied in the treaty, and such others as do not appear in that instrument, can have no binding force whatsoever, because the preliminary

"This is exactly the case about another stipulation of the preliminaries to the effect that both countries should ask for the arbitration of the President of the United States in case they could not agree upon a basis for the settlement of the claims of actual and potential American citizens in Mexican possession. After they did agree upon possession, the stipulation was dropped. It was in the final treaty of September 27, 1882 that stipulation ceased to have any force. Besides it was not incorporated in the treaty, and the preliminaries containing

"Each country appointed a commission of engineers to survey the ground and mark the boundary line. Each commission worked in a different way. In some cases the lines were drawn in one direction, and in some cases the result of their work was to make a parallel of latitude or a meridian of longitude, differed somewhat, but in a few such cases the respective commissioners adjusted the difference by mutual agreement. In no case have the respective governments had any objection to accept a third demarcation drawn evenly between the conflicting lines drawn by their commissioners. There was only one point in which the commissioners differed, and the respective governments solved the difficulty by a compromise."

**Another Serious Mistake.**

"Another serious mistake is the statement that Mexico sent troops to her frontier with Guatemala in consequence of the delay and difficulties which occurred in surveying and making the line, and that Guatemala's invasion of the disputed territory took place after Mexico has sent there her military forces. In point of fact Guatemala has invaded twice that territory, once in 1891, and again

not send any troops to her frontier until long after the second invasion has taken place, and after Guatemala had refused to apologize for the same, and it had been clear yet the disputed territory. This fact puts this incident under a very different light.

"Mexico and Guatemala agree that the boundary treaty of 1882 is binding on both countries, and there is, therefore, no need of any new convention to settle the question. In fact, Guatemala has not even suggested the convenience of any such step. The treaty of 1882 provided for placing the monuments to mark the boundary line, and there is no need of any new convention

pose. Both governments have signed a convention extending for two years, the timing in which the whole work of marking the line has been completed. The Mexican senate ratified that convention, but the Guatemalan congress failed to do so. It is expected, however, that it will be ratified in its next session, which opens soon.

At the same time, the survey of the whole line has been finished, and there is not any disagreement about it between the respective engineers, but the Guatemalan chief engineer has refused to sign some of the minutes and chapters of the survey, claiming that the line had not been laid out by the

commissioners, after the pending convention has been ratified by Guatemala. "There is no difference of opinion between the two governments about the construction of the boundary treaty in so far as the boundary line is concerned, and therefore no need of an arbitration for that purpose.

**The Pending Question.**

"The pending question between Mexico and Guatemala is a very plain one. Each country claims that under the *de facto* line existing before the treaty of 1852 she was in possession of the disputed territory; and both agree that it belongs to Mexico.

The treaty line is paramount, Mexico considered the action of Guatemala in sending an armed force to destroy the log camps established there by Mexicans who were cutting wood under grants of the Mexican government, seize the logs and burn them. Mexico understood the invasion of her territory and has asked Guatemala to apologize for it, and to pay an indemnity to the victims of the outrage. If Guatemala wishes to settle the question it is for her to make amends for the invasion. Mexico will not ask an unreasonable indemnity."

Senator Romero said he was sure that his government would not be willing to sub-

for damages, and that he did not see how Mexico could recede from her demand of an apology.

As for the action of the Mexican congress on the question, Senor Romero said he would not be an anticipator of it; and he thought neither his government nor his country desires a war with Guatemala, as they are fully conscious of its dangers, drawbacks and disadvantages; and therefore he hoped that the proposed war would not be conducted in the City of Mexico would end in a friendly settlement of the difficulty, and he added that he had heard nothing recently which would induce him to believe that there

Lincoln Post, No. 3, Department of the Potomac, G. A. R., gave an enjoyable campfire last evening in honor of M. T. Anderson, who was recently elected commander of the department. A large number of comrades from other posts were in attendance and addresses were made by Messrs. Anderson, Ross Campbell, Bergen, Bumpus Howlet, Chambers and Hart.